

PLANT COMMUNITY FIELD GUIDE



Coastal Foothills Spotted Gum—Ironbark Forest



Map
Unit
15



HCCREMS Extant Vegetation Mapping

Vegetation communities this guide have been classified and mapped according to Hunter Central Coast Regional Environment Management Strategy (HCCREMS) Vegetation Survey, using Mapping Units (MU). For more comprehensive and up-to-date information on this survey please contact HCCREMS.

<http://www.hccrems.com.au>

When you are starting out regenerating a bushland site, it may be that you don't know a lot of native species, but if you can provide a council vegetation officer, community support officer or local native plant nursery with some of the information from the Field Data sheet, it is likely that they would be able to identify the broader vegetation community.

The Site Orientation Booklet in this series has a useful contact list including:

Coastcare Officers

Landcare and Community Support Officers

National Parks Officers

Land Managers

Field Data Sheet

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Habitat Type: <i>please circle</i> | | | |
| River bank | Wetland | Floodplain | Drainage line |
| Open Forest | Closed Forest | Rainforest | Disturbed / Grazed (Livestock) |
| Shrub(2-4m) | Heath (< 2m) | Grassland | Other: |
| Position on Slope : <i>please circle</i> Watercourse Flat Lower Slope Upper Slope Crest Dune | | | Altitude in metres |
| Geology | | Aspect: <i>please circle</i> N NE E SE S SW W NW | |
| Soil Description | | | |
| Colour | Type | pH | Sand Clay Loam |
| Vegetation Description | | | |
| Vegetation community, association, type | | Weed Invasion: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low | |
| Dominant upper storey species | | Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low | |
| Dominant middle storey species | | Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low | |
| Dominant lower storey/groundcover species | | Species diversity: <i>please circle</i> High Medium Low | |

Common ridgeline plant communities in the Lower Hunter

If this information is expanded to the two other most common ridgeline vegetation communities in the Lower Hunter, a little bit of knowledge and access to the appropriate support officers should allow you to increase your knowledge of your site, and therefore manage your site better.



To do this, you need to be able to identify the dominant species by at least their common names.

In an Open Forest community, the dominant species would be the tall trees-

Spotted Gum, Ironbark (MU15), Sydney Redgum or Smooth-barked Apple, Red Bloodwood (MU30), Scribbly Gum, Red Bloodwood (MU31).



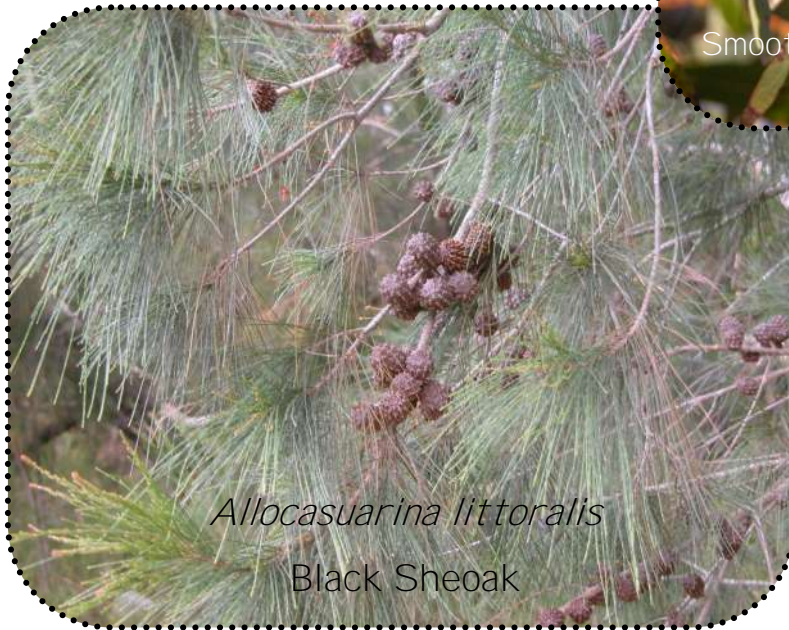
On many sites, there may be some overlapping of these species and other species- Grey Gum, Stringybark.

You need to make a decision as to which species is most numerous on the site. If you are not sure, then take a photo and collect some foliage (not just one leaf) and capsules, and consult your support network.



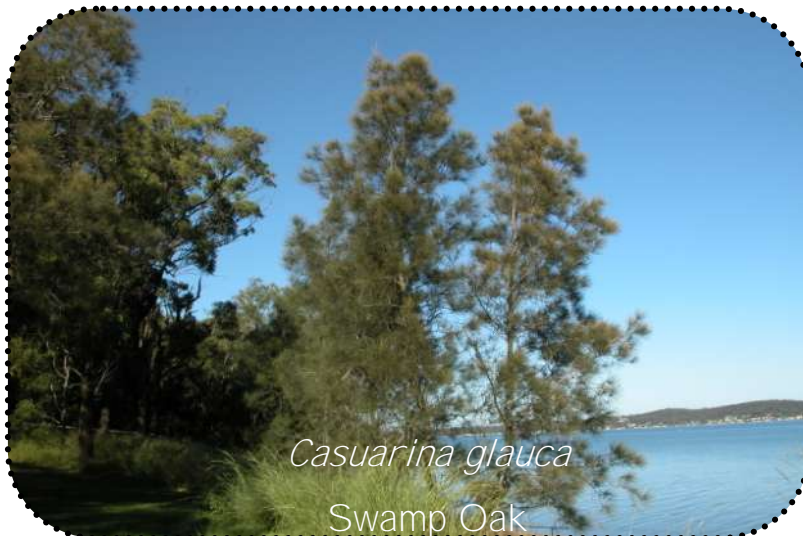
Angophora costata

Smooth Barked Apple or Sydney Red Gum



Allocasuarina littoralis

Black Sheoak



Casuarina glauca

Swamp Oak

If you have She-oaks on site this is also another good indicator- Forest Oak tends to be found in MU15 communities, and moist slope communities; Black She-oak is found in MU30 and MU31 communities, and Swamp Oak around lakes, lower catchment watercourses, and brackish wetlands in the Lower Hunter.

A description of a plant community

Abridged from http://www.lhccrems.com.au/biodiversity/mu15_17.html#mu15

MU15 . Coastal Foothills Spotted Gum - Ironbark Forest

Canopy Label: *C. maculata* / *E. umbra* / *E. siderophloia*

Structural Classification (Specht): Forest - Open Forest

Description

Coastal Foothills Spotted Gum - Ironbark Forest is a moderately tall open forest dominated by *Corymbia maculata* in combination with one or several ironbark species *E. siderophloia*, *E. paniculata* or *E. fibrosa*. *E. acmenoides*, *E. umbra* and *Syncarpia glomulifera* are common associate trees. Localised abundances of canopy species vary with notable outliers including the codominance of *E. microcorys* on the Mandalong foothills behind Wyong and the dominance of *E. paniculata* and absence of *C. maculata* at Point Wolstoncroft near Lake Macquarie. The upper mid-storey is often composed of an open stratum of *Allocasuarina torulosa*. Depending on recent fire history mesic understorey elements can be present or absent. Typically the shrub layer is open with species such as *Persoonia linearis*, *Polyscias sambucifolia*, *Breynia oblongifolia* and *Daviesia ulicifolia*. In the northern extent around Lake Macquarie *Pultenaea villosa* and *Podolobium ilicifolium* can become more prevalent. In the southern extent around Wyong the shrub layer often contains *Melaleuca nodosa*. The ground cover is dominated by a number of common grasses including *Imperata cylindrica var major*, *Entolasia stricta*, *Themeda australis* and *Microlaena stipoides var stipoides*.

The coastal foothills from Ourimbah to Beresfield represent the length of its range. The crests and slopes of ridgelines on the northern rim of Lake Macquarie extend to coastal locations at Glenrock SRA. Outcropping of this assemblage also occur near Toronto and on Pulbah Island. At the drier extremes of its range this assemblage merges with Map Unit 17.

Examples of such cross overs occur near the northern limit of the Sugarloaf range and on the western extent of the Myall Range at Quorrobolong. It is also floristically and structurally similar to Map Unit 16 Seaham Spotted Gum - Ironbark Forest.

To the north of the region this assemblage aligns to Forest Ecosystem 52 Foothills Grey Gum-Ironbark-Spotted Gum (NPWS, 1999a). Understorey features suggest a close resemblance although canopy species vary with *E. punctata* giving way to *E. propinqua* and *E. umbra* merging to *E. carnea* as northerly distance from the Hunter River increases.

MU15 . Coastal Foothills Spotted Gum - Ironbark Forest

| Stratum | Scientific name | % species in community | Common name |
|---|---|------------------------|-------------|
| Tallest | <i>Corymbia maculata</i> | 82 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus umbra</i> | 65 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus siderophloia</i> | 51 | |
| | <i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i> | 47 | |
| | <i>Angophora costata</i> | 36 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus propinqua</i> | 33 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus acmenoides</i> | 31 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> | 31 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus fibrosa</i> | 18 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i> | 18 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i> | 16 | |
| | <i>Eucalyptus paniculata</i> <i>subsp paniculata</i> | 13 | |
| Upper Mid | <i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i> | 69 | |
| Mid | <i>Persoonia linearis</i> | 64 | |
| | <i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i> | 56 | |
| | <i>Breynia oblongifolia</i> | 51 | |
| | <i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i> | 51 | |
| | <i>Melaleuca nodosa</i> | 13 | |
| Lowest (<1m) | <i>Pratia purpurascens</i> | 89 | |
| | <i>Imperata cylindrica var major</i> | 87 | |
| | <i>Entolasia stricta</i> | 84 | |
| | <i>Themeda australis</i> | 67 | |
| | <i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i> | 64 | |
| | <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> <i>var stipoides</i> | 55 | |
| | <i>Pterostylis baptistii</i> | 4 | |
| | <i>Brachycome graminea</i> | 2 | |
| | <i>Pterostylis furcillata</i> | 2 | |
| | <i>Dianella caerulea</i> | 87 | |
| | <i>Vernonia cinerea var cinerea</i> | 71 | |
| | <i>Eustrephus latifolius</i> | 60 | |
| | <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> | 56 | |
| | <i>Billardiera scandens</i> | 55 | |
| | <i>Desmodium rhytidophyllum</i> | 55 | |
| | <i>Maytenus silvestrus</i> | 55 | |
| | <i>Glycine clandestina</i> | 67 | |
| Vines and Epiphytes | <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> | 67 | |
| <p>Rare/endangered Species: <i>Macrozamia flexuosa, Tetratheca juncea</i></p> | | | |

A picture guide to plants in
MU15 - coastal foothills
spotted gum - ironbark forest

Tall trees



*Corymbia
maculata*
Spotted
Gum



*Syncarpia
glomulifera*
Turpentine



Angophora costata Smooth barked Apple



*Eucalyptus
punctata*
Grey Gum



*Eucalyptus
paniculata*
Grey
Ironbark

A picture guide to plants in
MU15- coastal foothills
spotted gum-ironbark forest

Upper Mid storey



Allocasuarina littoralis
Black She-oak



Mid storey



Persoonia linearis
Narrow-leaved Geebung



Breynia oblongifolia
Coffee Bush



Daviesia ulicifolia
Gorse Bitter Pea



Melaleuca nodosa
Ball Honey myrtle



A picture guide to plants in
MU15- coastal foothills
spotted gum-ironbark forest

Lowest storey



Imperata cylindrica
Blady Grass



Themeda australis
Kangaroo Grass



Lomandra longifolia
Spiny-headed
Mat Rush



Dianella caerulea
Flax Lily



Eustrephus
latifolius
Wombat Berry



A picture guide to plants in
MU15- coastal foothills
spotted gum-ironbark forest

Lowest storey



Billardia scandens
Apple Berry



Glycine clandestina
Love
Creeper



Vines



Hardenbergia violacea
Purple Twinning Pea



Rare/Endangered



Tetratheca juncea
Black-eyed
Susan



References

Hunter Councils Inc (2003) Lower Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environmental http://www.lhccrems.com.au/biodiversity/mu15_17.html#mu15 (Accessed 12.05.07)

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Useful people

The Site Orientation Booklet in this series has a useful contact list including

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Landcare and Community Support Officers

National Parks Officers



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